(c) whether the Hon'ble Minister is aware that the Programme has to cater to two Sections, Tribals and Non Tribals;

(d) whether the thirty Minutes Programme can cover even on a small scale, the interests of both the Tribals and Non Tribals; and

(e) whether there is any proposal to telecast news both in Bengali and Kok-Borok language?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTNG (SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir.

(e) No, Sir.

(d) No, Sir.

Social organisations concern over programmes of foreign companies.

1999. SHRI DEBABRATA BISWAS. Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether some social organisations and women organisations have expressed their concern regarding the programmes being telecast by various foreign companies; and

(b) if so. what action is being taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO): (a) and (b) The contents of the programmes of foreign television networks, which are considered by many as being alien to our culture and values, do not come within the ambit of the regulations of Government of India.

Amendments to the Prasar Bharti Bill

2000. SHRI IQBAL SINGH: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether amendments to the Prasar Bharti Bill proposed by Government for introduction in Parliament have been finalised;

(b) if so, what are the main points of amendments that have been finalised; and

(c) by what time they are likely to be introduced?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO): (a) to (c) Expeditious action is being taken to consult political parties and employees associations on the proposed amendments to Sections 11, 23 and 25 of the Prasar Bharti (Broadcasting Corporation of India) Act, 1990. No target date can however be spcified.

Film Industry's theat to close Theatres

2001. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the film iindustry has threatened to close all the cinema theatres and decided for non-refunding of entertainment tax collected through this sale of tickets; if so, royalty rates for films telecast by Doordarshan are not revised by Government as reported in the Hindustan Times dated the 16th July, 1993;

(b) whether any dialogue between Government officials and representative of FFI (Film Federation of India) has been held so far, if so, the details of the outcome thereof;

(c) what are the other demands of FFI and in how many cases Government are agreeable, if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether Government have also examined and implemented any recommendation made by the Suresh Mathur Committee in this regard earlier; and

(e) what steps Government have taken so far to avert the threatened strike from the 15th August, 1993, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO): (a) to (e) Government have seen

the news-item dated 16-7-93. According to a report in the 'SCREEN' dated 6-8-93 the film industry has postponed the direct action referred to in the news-item dated 16-7-93.

The film industry's main points are—

(1) Abolition of entertainment tax;

(2) Increase in the royalty rates for feature films telecast; and

(3) streamlining the procedure for selection of feature films for telecast.

Regarding (1), entertainment tax is a State subject and it is primarily for the State Governments and Union Territory Administrations to consider this.

Regarding (2), the royalty rates for telecast of Hindi and regional language feature films in the National Network of Doordarshan have been revised upwards on 8-6-93.

As for (3), it was suggested to the film industry to nominate 8 members on the selection committee for films meant for Doordarshan, but the film industry did not avail of the opportunity.

After the news-item dated 16-7-93, no dialogue between the representatives of the film industry and the Central Government has been held. However, Government are ready to discuss the problems being faced by the film industry so as to find a solution for the same.

Suresh Mathur Committee had indicated in its report the then existing rates of royalty for films and songs telecast, etc. and also the rates demanded by the film industry. The Committee had recommended that "the extent of enhancement should be determined by the Ministry of I&B in consultation with Doordarshan and film industry within a period of three months." Thereafter, the rates were revised in April 1990 and again in June 1993.

Import of Newsprint

2002. SHRI KAMAL MORARKA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that STC is not supplying imported newsprint; and

(b) if so, what steps are proposed to be taken to ensure regular supply of imported newsprint?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO): (a) After the import of newsprint has been decanalised with effect from 1-4-1992, STC does not remain to be the canalising agent for import of newsprint. However, STC is enlisted with RNI as one of the handling agents and they can import newsprint on behalf of newspapers holding valid entitlement certificate issued by RNI.

(b) Newspapers are now allowed to import newsprint directly or through any of the handling agents functioning at present.

Delay in preparation of serials

2003. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Doordarshan schedule for getting a stock of sponsored serials was likely to run into trouble as the time frame specified was not appropriate for many of the serials;

(b) if so, whether many of the serials approved by Doordarshan were prepared three years ago with different nomenclature;

(c) what are the other factors causing delay in submitting serials by the producers; and

(d) what action Government would propose in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) Representations have been received from a few producers to extend the time for submission of pilots on grounds of non-availability of technicians, vacation on account of summer months etc. Extension of three months has been given on such requests.